

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2195

## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHNELTING.

4453H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 161, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the rights of parents.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 161, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 161.841, to read as follows:

**161.841. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Parents' Bill of Rights Act of 2022".**

**2. As used in this section, the term "parent" means a child's biological or adoptive parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of the child.**

**3. In recognition of the constitutional and natural right of parents to raise their child in the ways the parents deem proper, it is the intent of the general assembly to reaffirm that:**

**(1) The rights and expectations of parents are granted by the laws of nature and of nature's God;**

**(2) The right of parents to raise their child in the ways the parents deem proper cannot be granted by the state but merely recognized by the state as an inherent right;**

**(3) The state of Missouri recognizes the right of parents to raise their child in a manner that instills the parent's or parents' values, traditions, and family heritage;**

**(4) The state of Missouri believes that parents are the ultimate arbiters in their child's education;**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16           **(5) The state of Missouri believes that children deserve all traditional and**  
17 **nontraditional educational options the state of Missouri and private enterprises may**  
18 **furnish;**

19           **(6) Parents have the right to question and address their child's school officials**  
20 **and school board members at publicly designated meetings, with proper notice of the**  
21 **meeting being provided;**

22           **(7) Parents have the right to question and review the curriculum taught in their**  
23 **child's school by questioning the local school board and school administrators;**

24           **(8) Parents have the right and expectation that the academic curriculum taught**  
25 **in their child's school aligns with state and federal law;**

26           **(9) Parents have the right and expectation to obtain access to educational**  
27 **materials and curricula taught to the parents' child in the classroom;**

28           **(10) Parents have the right to be informed of their child's behavior in school or**  
29 **any counseling the child receives in school while the child is a minor;**

30           **(11) Parents have the right to remove their child from instruction or materials**  
31 **the parents deem inappropriate or not in keeping with their values; and**

32           **(12) If dissatisfied with local school board decisions, each Missourian has the**  
33 **right to run as a candidate for such Missourian's local school board.**

34           **4. The state of Missouri wishes to reinforce these self-evident truths through this**  
35 **reaffirmation of parental rights provided under subsection 3 of this section.**

36           **5. The reaffirmations provided under subsection 3 of this section shall be**  
37 **publicly read at every public school board meeting in the state of Missouri within ninety**  
38 **days of August 28, 2022, and a copy of the reaffirmations under subsection 3 of this**  
39 **section shall be posted in all classrooms and school administrative offices located in**  
40 **public and charter schools in this state.**

41           **6. This section shall be construed to empower parents to enforce the following**  
42 **rights against school districts and public schools in which their children are enrolled**  
43 **that receive any federal or state moneys. This section shall be construed to limit public**  
44 **schools, school districts, and school boards from violating the rights of parents and**  
45 **taxpayers whose children attend publicly funded schools. The following rights of**  
46 **parents shall not be impeded by any public school, school district, or school board in this**  
47 **state:**

48           **(1) The right to know what their minor child is being taught in school including,**  
49 **but not limited to, curricula, books, and other instructional materials;**

50           **(2) The right to receive information about who is teaching their minor child**  
51 **including, but not limited to, guest lecturers and outside presenters and whether such**  
52 **person is paid or a volunteer;**

53           **(3) The right to receive information about individuals and organizations**  
54 **receiving school contracts and funding;**

55           **(4) The right to visit the school and check in on their minor child during school**  
56 **hours, except during an emergency in which the safety of the students requires:**

57           **(a) A lockdown to limit exposure of building occupants to an imminent hazard**  
58 **or threat; or**

59           **(b) A lockout to prevent an outside hazard or threat from entering the building;**

60           **(5) The right to view or receive all school records, medical or otherwise,**  
61 **concerning their minor child;**

62           **(6) The right to receive information about the collection and transmission of**  
63 **their minor child's data;**

64           **(7) The right to have sufficient accountability and transparency regarding school**  
65 **boards; and**

66           **(8) The right to know about situations affecting their minor child's safety and**  
67 **well-being in school.**

68           **7. No school district or public school shall require nondisclosure agreements or**  
69 **similar forms for a parent's review of curricula. Each public school or school district**  
70 **shall allow parents to make copies of curriculum documents.**

71           **8. No school district or public school shall allow student involvement in school**  
72 **assemblies, field trips, or other extracurricular activities unless the child's parent**  
73 **provides written authorization for such student involvement.**

74           **9. No school district or public school shall collect any biometric data or other**  
75 **sensitive personal information about a minor child without obtaining written parental**  
76 **consent before collecting such data or information.**

77           **10. Each school board meeting pertaining to curricula, safety, or other student**  
78 **issues shall be held in public and allow for public comments. The school board may**  
79 **limit the time allowed for public comments but shall ensure that the portion of the**  
80 **meeting designated for public comments allows each parent who desires to comment**  
81 **enough time to present the comment. No school board shall require any notification of**  
82 **intent to comment to be submitted to the school board before such meeting is held.**

83           **11. Each school district and public school shall provide information relating to**  
84 **school contracts and funding upon request and shall make efforts to accommodate such**  
85 **requests in a timely manner.**

86           **12. Each school district and public school shall notify parents in a timely manner**  
87 **of all reported incidents pertaining to student safety including, but not limited to, any**  
88 **felony or misdemeanor committed by teachers, volunteers, or other school employees.**

89           **13. The attorney general of this state or any parent of a child enrolled in a public**  
90 **school in this state may bring a civil action for injunctive relief against the school district**  
91 **or public school in which their child is enrolled if such school district or public school**  
92 **violates this section. Such action shall be brought in the county where the violation**  
93 **occurred or in the Cole County circuit court. If a court finds that the school district or**  
94 **public school has knowingly engaged in multiple or repeated violations of this section,**  
95 **the court shall order the school district or public school to cease and desist all actions**  
96 **taken in violation of this section.**

97           **14. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any rights otherwise**  
98 **retained by parents or taxpayers.**

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